

'Celebrating Rainbow Families and Inclusion'

NEWS, PAGE 9

Drag Queen Storytime at Dolley Madison Library in McLean co-hosted by McLean Community Center: This storytime is an established program aligned with the American Library Association's key action areas of diversity and equitable access.

PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION CLASSIFIEDS, PAGE 10 ♦ CALENDARS, PAGE 11

Police Weapons Point At Black People

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Best Real Estate Market Ever

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PHOTO BY MERCIA HOBSON/THE CONNECTION

Coolers full of 7-day meal kits, planned by registered dietitian nutritionists and prepared daily by trained food service professionals pack a Fairfax County Public School bus for its Bus Route Meal Service, Summer 2021.



Hutchinson Principal Sarah Aiello takes part of a meal kit from an FCPS employee to give to a parent with little children in her car during the first day of the Bus Route Meal Distribution.

School Buses and Sites Provide Free Grab and Go 7-day Meal Kits

No questions asked, no IDs needed — County children under 18 and all FXCO students eligible.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Ten Fairfax County Public Schools (FCPS) buses began rolling Monday, June 28, on a mission to deliver their precious cargo, coolers full of nutritious breakfast and lunch items packed in seven-day, bulk meal kits, grab-and-go style. It is a lifeline for some children living in the county's 406 square miles, who depend on USDA's child nutrition programs for the nourishment they need to grow and thrive.

According to FCPS, nearly one-third of its students qualified for free and reduced-price meals in the fall of 2019. Families who earn less than 130 percent of the poverty level are eligible for free meals, and those with incomes between 130 and 185 percent of poverty level qualify for reduced-price meals. Fairfax County Summer Meal Program runs under the USDA Summer Food Service Program and enters its second week on July 5.

"The distribution of the meal kits fulfills an essential service to our community. The meals provide much-needed support to our most vulnerable students and families. Upon pickup, parents are not asked for any information other than the number of meals they require," said Dr. Ricardy Anderson, Fairfax County School Board Chair. "It is important to continue to spread the word that the distribution of meals is still available at FCPS schools and bus routes because the fami-

lies who have the greatest need may not be aware the service is continuing throughout the summer months."

The U.S. Department of Agriculture announced that school districts could continue serving free meals to all children regardless of family income and allow the meals served in a drive-thru or walk-up setting, offered as "grab-and-go" meals through June 2022 under its Summer Food Service Program.

The program is vital, particularly for communities hardest hit by COVID. According to FCPS, all county children under eighteen years of age, and all FCPS students, regardless of age, are eligible to receive the no-cost, weekly Meal Kits, which can be provided to parents or caretakers without the presence of a child.

FCPS made the free meal kits available in two ways. Parents, guardians, and students can access the kits at the weekly Bus Route Meal Service distributing throughout the county through Thursday, Aug. 5. The second option is to visit one of the Meal Kit Sites (every Monday) through Aug. 2.

PARENTS AND CAREGIVERS can let the FCPS employees know how many children need a meal kit. No other questions are asked, nor is identification required. Students may also pick up the meal kits.

On Tuesday, June 29, Delmay Sandoval of Herndon was first in line at Hutchinson Elementary school parking lot for that Bus Route Meal Service location. She sat in her

car with the windows rolled down with her two children and baby in the back seat. The temperature registered 95 degrees, and the sun was blazing. "I received this message last night from the school. It's in Spanish," Sandoval said. "I didn't know about the meals before that."

According to Sarah Aiello, Principal at Hutchinson, she texted the community multiple times the night before "to prep them because it's something new." She stood in the school parking lot as the bus arrived and called out to people, "Once a week, every Tuesday, 11:37."

Parents, caretakers, and students exited their cars to receive the meal kits off-loaded from the bus's rear. "I need it for three kids," one woman said. "Dos ninos," said a man.

Seeing small children in some vehicles, Aiello and other school staff hurried toward them with meal kits and loaded them into the trunks. Aiello later reported 80 meal kits distributed.

Registered dietitian nutritionists plan the meals and trained food service professionals prepare them daily using fresh high-quality ingredients. The grab-and-go meals "are tasty, well-balanced, and contain protein, whole grains, fruits and/or vegetables, and low-fat or fat-free milk," according to the Fairfax County Office of Food and Nutrition Services.

Ten FCPS buses run designated Monday, Tuesday, Wednesday, and Thursday routes to schools and other locations, once a week

Monday Meal Kit Sites

June 28 - August 2, 8:30 - 10:30 a.m.
or until supplies are exhausted

Dates of distribution

- June 28
- July 6 (Tuesday) July 6 due to the Monday, July 5 holiday)
- July 12
- July 19
- July 26
- August 2

Meal Kit sites

- Centreville HS- 6001 Union Mill Rd, Clifton
- Edison HS 5801 Franconia Rd, Alexandria
- Falls Church HS 7521 Jaguar Trail, Falls Church
- Hayfield SS 7630 Telegraph Rd, Alexandria, VA
- Marshall HS 7731 Leesburg Pike, Falls Church
- Mount Vernon HS 8515 Old Mt Vernon Rd, Alexandria pages 07/05
- South County HS 8700 Laurel Crest Drive, Lorton
- South Lakes HS 11400 South Lakes Dr, Reston
- West Springfield HS 6100 Rolling Rd, West Springfield
- Westfield HS 4700 Stonecroft Blvd, Chantilly
- Woodson HS 9525 Main St, Fairfax

A list of the Monday Meal Kit sites open for pick up.

with scheduled arrival and departure times for the Summer Meal Bus Routes. The routes stay the same for the 6-week program. The last day of the Summer Meal Bus Routes is Thursday, Aug. 5. Search Bus Route Meal Service- Summer 2021 | Fairfax County Public Schools for a list of the Monday through Thursday routes for the ten buses.

THE MONDAY MORNING FCPS Summer Meal Program Meal Kit Sites are open 8:30 - 10:30 a.m., for the remaining weeks in the season -July 12 through Aug. 2. Like the bus routes, meal kits containing seven days of breakfast and lunch items are packed in bulk. Adults may purchase kits for themselves and other adults for \$28 each at the Monday sites. Meal kits are not available off the buses for purchase by adults.

The Monday morning FCPS Summer Meal Program Meal Kit Sites are Centreville HS, Edison HS, Falls Church HS, Hayfield SS, Marshall HS, Mount Vernon HS, South County HS, South Lakes HS, West Springfield HS, Westfield HS, and Woodson HS.

Search Meal Kit Sites (Every Monday) June 28 through August 2 for more information.

Marijuana Is Now Legal in Virginia

The long strange trip from a failed war on drugs to social equity licenses.

BY MICHAEL LEE POPE
THE CONNECTION

Smoke 'em if you've got 'em because pot is now legal in the commonwealth of Virginia.

For advocates who have been working in the trenches for years, the new law that goes into effect July 1 is the culmination of years of determination in the face of seemingly impossible odds. The tide began to turn after Democrats seized control of the General Assembly and lawmakers started taking a new look at police brutality after the murder of George Floyd. Now that law is signed, sealed, delivered and ready to light up.

"Virginians have long been calling for the end of prohibition," said Jenn Michelle Pedini, the executive director of Virginia NORML who led the fight for legalization. "In 2021, their voices are finally being heard."

Although marijuana is now legal in small amounts for adults, possession of more than an ounce can result in a civil penalty of \$25 and possession of more than one pound is a felony. This mirrors the way other states have eased into legalization, allowing small amounts before gradually increasing how much of the drug they can have on them at a given time. Many advocates applaud the new law legalizing pot in small amounts, but they say keeping the penalties for larger amounts is problematic.

"This is one step to eliminate the racist policing around simple possession," said Chelsea Higgs Wise, executive director of Marijuana Justice Virginia. "People are still incarcerated for larger amounts than one ounce, and Virginia is making a way to profit off of pounds of marijuana while really ignoring and neglecting a lot of folks who have lost their lives and their families to the enforcement of marijuana [prohibition] that has been disproportionately on Black Virginians."

THE NEW LAW ALLOWS each household to have four plants, although commercial sales won't begin until New Year's Day 2024. Smoking weed in public is not legal, although you can smoke it in the privacy of your home or anywhere on your property. In many ways, the new rules around pot mirror all the existing ones around alcohol. Having an open container of marijuana in a vehicle is not allowed, and driving under the influence remains illegal.

"The prohibition on marijuana has failed both in this commonwealth and in this country," said Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30), who introduced the bill legalizing marijuana. "Cannabis does not have to be the boogeyman that some are making it out to be."

The journey from prohibition to legalization began after Democrats won control of the



DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

As of July 1, possession of less than an ounce of marijuana is legal in Virginia.

"The prohibition on marijuana has failed both in this commonwealth and in this country."

— Sen. Adam Ebbin (D-30)

"This is one step to eliminate the racist policing around simple possession."

— Chelsea Higgs Wise, executive director of Marijuana Justice Virginia

House and Senate in 2019. The following year, they decriminalized marijuana and began setting the groundwork for legalization. The bill legalizing marijuana was a heavy lift for a General Assembly that was meeting mostly virtually, and it included everything from expunging old convictions in the failed war on drugs to the creation of a new Cannabis Control Authority. The effort almost fell apart in the Senate, where some conservative Democrats opposed legalization.

"People smoke marijuana to get high," said Sen. Chap Petersen (D-34). "The purpose of smoking it is to create an altered mental state, and that may be fine on your own time but once you legalize something people have the ability to pretty much use it anytime they want."

THE DEBATE OVER LEGALIZATION culminated in a moment of high drama in the Senate, which was meeting at the Science Museum of Virginia to allow for social distancing. Senators were tied 20 to 20, and Lt. Gov. Justin Fairfax broke the vote in favor of legalization. As part of a compromise that secured the deal, lawmakers agreed to circle back around next year and

work out the specifics about how the new industry will work and how licenses are granted.

"It is quite rare for a new industry to just show up somewhat suddenly, but Virginia has had the opportunity to watch and learn from other jurisdictions," said Paul Seaborn, a professor at the McIntire School of Commerce at the University of Virginia. "The goals as they've been stated in Virginia is to make this new industry more equitable than most or maybe all of our other industries."

When the Cannabis Control Authority starts granting licenses, some applicants are likely to have priority over others. For example, people who have been convicted of possession of marijuana might end up receiving preferential treatment. Family members of people who have been convicted of possession could also get priority. Residents of neighborhoods that have been disproportionately policed could also end up

getting preferential treatment, although all the specifics of how those social equity licenses will work have yet to be approved by the General Assembly.

Some are opposed to that approach.

"You cannot provide preferential treatment lifting up one class or group of citizens without diminishing the rights of another," said Sen. Bill DeSteph (R-8), previewing the coming debate over the issue in 2022.

THE CREATION OF A new industry also allows Virginia to create new worker protections for employees in the marijuana business, including prohibiting worker misclassification and union busting. Gov. Ralph Northam and House Democrats want to prevent license holders from taking sides in union organizing efforts and require them to pay a prevailing wage. That's a proposal that's likely to receive opposition from Republicans and conservative Democrats who support Virginia's right-to-work law.

"These are state licensees, just like a contractor or a doctor or a lawyer or your plumber," said Stephen Haner, a senior fellow at the Thomas Jefferson Institute. "There's no other state licensee where the licensing requirements are tied into basically what I consider a very pro-union interpretation."

Labor leaders see this as an opportunity to protect workers before they are hired in an industry that won't even begin until 2024. As is the case with the social equity licenses, the rules about worker misclassification and union busting can be targeted to work against some of the damage created by the failed war on drugs. But that will only happen if lawmakers are able to get the legislation out of both chambers, which could be tricky.

"This is an industry that was specifically designed to combat some of the problems and failures that were caused by the war on drugs, and specifically the impact on certain communities especially Black communities and brown communities," said Michael Wilson, vice president at United Food and Commercial Workers Local 400.



McLean Rotary Club Installs New President and Officers

John McEvelly was installed as president of the Rotary Club of McLean for the Rotary Year 2021-2022, on Tuesday, June 29, during a special meeting held at the garden pavilion of The Lewinsville Retirement Residence, 1515 Great Falls Street in McLean. McEvelly previously served as Club President in 1999-2000, and as President of the McLean Rotary Club Foundation in 2016. He retired in 2020 after a successful career in commercial real estate, most recently as a principal of Avison Young. He also served as an officer with the U.S. Marine Corps during the Vietnam War, completing one and one-half tours with the 1st Marine Aircraft Wing at Da Nang, RVN.

McLean Rotarian and Past President John Tharrington inducted McEvelly and the Club's new officers and directors. This was the first in-person meeting of the Club since the beginning of the coronavirus pandemic. Members have been meeting virtually each week, an option also provided for the installation.

The Rotary Club of McLean began its first in-person luncheon meetings since the pandemic at noon on Tuesday, July 6, 2021 at the Redeemer Lutheran Church, 1545 Chain Bridge Road, McLean, VA 22101. Visiting Rotarians and members of the community who are interested in Rotary are invited to attend. All are reminded to wear their masks for the meeting.

McEvelly thanked the outgoing Club Board of Directors for keeping the McLean Rotary Club together and functioning during the past year of difficulty. In his address to the Club, he also stressed

that the Club needs to add younger members, increase its public image, resume its fundraising activities, expand its reach to at-risk children in nearby communities, and modernize by automating its record keeping and administrative functions.

At the installation, McEvelly also announced that he and his wife Brenda are "pleased to honor the memory of Teresa Caldwell, former principal of McLean High School, with a scholarship in her name. It will be given to a graduating McLean High School senior who has been given a second chance academically to attend college. The scholarship will be awarded annually for the next five years through the McLean Rotary Club Foundation.

Club officers for the coming Rotary year include: Glenn Yarborough (Vice President), Carmen Wu (President-Nominee/Secretary), Courtney Nuzzo (Immediate Past President), Richard Golden (Treasurer), and Paul Sawtell (Sergeant-at-Arms).

Club Directors include: Carol King (Administration), Deborah Jackson (Membership), Eva Sereghy, Lynn Heinrichs, and Richard Golden (Public Image), Andy Briscoe (Service Projects), Ray Petniunas (Liaison to McLean Rotary Club Foundation), Bob Jansen (Youth Services), Michael Arietti (Grants), and Lois Wilson (International Service).

For more information see the Rotary Club of McLean website at <http://www.mcleanrotary.org>. Information about Rotary International can be found at <https://www.rotary.org>.

BULLETIN BOARD

Submit civic/community announcements at ConnectionNewspapers.com/Calendar. Photos and artwork welcome. Deadline is Thursday at noon, at least two weeks before the event.

SATURDAY/JULY 10

19th Amendment Kick-Off. 2 p.m. But for the 19th Amendment - A Talk Delivered by Cheryl Johnson, Clerk of the U.S. House of Representatives. Hybrid Event - Vienna Community Center (120 Cherry St., SE and Livestream via Facebook and YouTube). A speech and Q&A with Cheryl Johnson followed by the American Association of University Women performance: Failure is Impossible.

SUNDAY/JULY 11

Blood Drive. 7:45-12:05 p.m. At Lewinsville Presbyterian Church, 1724 Chain Bridge Road, McLean. Lewinsville Presbyterian Church will host its quarterly Blood Drive. INOVA Blood Services will be accepting donations via their bloodmobile. The bloodmobile will be parked

in the church's main parking lot near the Music entrance. All INOVA Blood Services personnel will be wearing masks and donors will be required to bring and wear their own masks. Bring a photo I.D. when you come to donate. Use the link for more information and to sign up online. Walk-ins welcome. Visit the website: <https://www.lewinsville.org/events/blood-drive/>

ONGOING

In-Person Worship Begins. 10:15 a.m. The Church of the Good Shepherd (United Methodist), 2351 Hunter Mill Road, Vienna. In-person worship services will resume with some restrictions. Details at: https://faithconnector.s3.amazonaws.com/goodshepherdva/files/revise2_in_person_worship_begins_june_13.pdf

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Police Weapons Point At

Long awaited report on Use of Force includes dozens of recommendations to guide the

BY KEN MOORE
THE CONNECTION

An independent study of Fairfax County Police Department use of force confirmed that Black people are overrepresented in use-of-force incidents by Fairfax police.

African-American people were also 1.8 times more likely to have a weapon pointed at them, and are more at risk of force being used against them during arrests, according to the report.

“What’s really concerning is when you have a consistent message or consistent story that the data tell you. And so, for African-Americans, you saw they were overrepresented across four of the six benchmarks, you saw they were overrepresented in four of the six multivariate severity models, and you saw they were overrepresented in the arrest model,” said Dr. Michael R. Smith, of the University of Texas at San Antonio, who is the co-author of the research project, “An Investigation of the Use of Force by the Fairfax County Police Department.” Smith is also a former Fairfax County police officer.

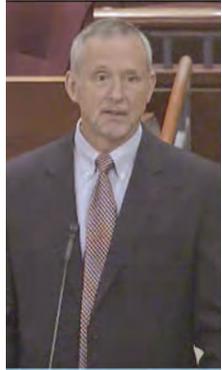
“That’s the kind of consistent story that I think is ripe for conversation and particularly for directed mechanisms to address,” Smith told the Fairfax County Board of Supervisors during a Public Safety Committee meeting on Tuesday, June 29, 2021.

The previous Board of Supervisors directed the study to better understand the influence of civilian race and ethnicity and other factors that impact use of force, said Rodney Lusk, chairman of the Board’s Public Safety Committee.

Smith and his colleagues Dr. Rob Tillyer, from the University of Texas at San Antonio, and Dr. Robin S. Engel from the University of Cincinnati, examined data from 1,360 encounters with civilians when force was used by Fairfax officers during 2016-2018.

“As we heard from advocates within our community and from our citizens at large across the county, there exists a sense that force is disproportionately applied against members of the African-American community and the Hispanic communities here in Fairfax County,” said Lusk. “I believe the data that this report lays out is a solid first step in understanding the underlying reasons for that sentiment and will act as a compass and guide us forward as we work to address inequities in our public safety and criminal justice infrastructure.”

According to the report, “Broken down by race and ethnicity, the Fairfax County Police Department used force against 576 Black persons (42 percent), 519 white persons (38 percent), 218 Hispanic persons (16 percent), and 45 Asian persons (three percent) that took place between Jan. 1, 2016 and Dec. 31, 2018. Average force levels were slightly higher for Blacks (2.4 on a 4.0 scale) than for other racial groups (2.1 for Whites, 2.2 of Hispanics, 2.0 for Asians), while resis-



Dr. Michael R. Smith, University of Texas at San Antonio



Dr. Rob Tillyer, University of Texas at San Antonio



Dr. Robin S. Engel, University of Cincinnati



Mount Vernon Supervisor Daniel Storck



Hunter Mill Supervisor Walter Alcorn



Braddock Supervisor James Walkinshaw

tance levels were essentially equal across the racial and ethnic groups.”

THE RESEARCH TEAM condensed the 275-page report down to a 40-minute presentation.

Some key findings verbatim, included:

“Force used against Blacks exceeded all benchmarks and was disproportionate compared to whites in Mount Vernon. Blacks also experienced consistently higher rates of force compared to benchmarks in Franconia, McLean and West Springfield.

“Hispanics were overrepresented as subjects of force in Sully & Mason (3 of 6 benchmarks).

“Rates of force used against Asians exceeded benchmarks in Mount Vernon, Reston, West Springfield and Fair Oaks.

“Force used against minority civilians exceeded that of whites in Sully (Hispanics), Mount Vernon (Blacks & Asians), McLean (Blacks & Asians), Mason (Hispanics), Reston (Asians), Franconia (Blacks), West Springfield (Blacks & Asians), and Fair Oaks (Asians).”

Breaking down the data by district stations “revealed some differences from the countywide findings,” according to Smith, Tillyer and Engel. “For example, in Mount Vernon, the rates of force used against Black civilians exceeded all benchmarks, and force was used disproportionately against Blacks relative to whites in four of the six benchmarks examined. Blacks also experienced force at rates that consistently exceeded the benchmark comparisons in Franconia, McLean, and West Springfield.”

“In the end, data does matter. It does help us to see things as they are, maybe not as we wish they were, or even as we perceive they are,” said Mount Vernon Supervisor Daniel Storck.

“Obviously, Mount Vernon’s District Station’s results are very concerning, deeply concerning to me. We are actually served by three stations and all three of them have issues of overuse,” he said.

DEMOGRAPHICS were not considered by the scientists because they “are a very poor

indicator of risk of a particular group having force used against them. It’s common in the media and other outlets but it’s not appropriate from a scientific perspective,” said Tillyer.

For example, according to this, it would not make sense to note the disparity of Black people making up 42 percent of Fairfax police use of force while being just 10 percent of the population. Or that white people make up 50 percent of the population but just 38 percent of police use of force.

During the question and answer portion of the committee meeting, Springfield District Supervisor Pat Herrity (R) said he hoped the Board would make note of the research team’s opinion.

“We regularly publish that,” said Herrity. “I’ve been asking for a caveat to that.”

But Hunter Mill District Supervisor Walter Alcorn disagreed. “I realize that you’re saying social scientists don’t measure looking at population. I do,” he said.

“I think it’s very important for all our public services, particularly those related to law enforcement, that we do watch that. We have to. That’s speaking as an elected official, not as a social scientist,” said Alcorn.

The Connection reported that Black people made up 38.54 percent of the arrests in 2019, according to statistics provided by the police in 2020. Black people were targets of police use of force 45.63 percent of the time in the county. Black people make up approximately 10 percent of the population. Black people are arrested and the subject of police force disproportionately more.

THE 275-PAGE REPORT included 12 pages of recommendations the Board will discuss at its next Public Safety Committee meeting in September.

One recommendation included capturing all instances of force and resistance sequentially during each encounter involving the use of force.

“Capturing the uses of force and resistance sequentially, so what happened first, then what happened, then what happened next, is sort of state of the art,” said Smith. “It’s where the field is going and where the

police department’s data collection ought to go.

“That will provide us the ability to have a much more nuanced and greater understanding of how these events transpire. How do some escalate quickly, how do some not escalate quickly, or how do they escalate. That’s the kind of data you need to answer such important questions.”

Other recommendations:

- ❖ Substantially increase the amount of training hours provided annually for de-escalation skills and tactics.

- ❖ Adopt a single, clear standard for the use of deadly force – Deadly force is permissible only if the suspect poses an imminent risk of death or serious injury to the officer or others.

- ❖ Consider limiting canine bites only to certain types of crimes or other narrowly-defined conditions

- ❖ Utilize body-worn camera footage to evaluate racial/ethnic disparities in treatment by the FCPD, force escalation or de-escalation, and to improve training and accountability

Other recommendations included more extensive deescalation training; rotating officers from higher crime areas; improving the ability to “capture” medical and injury data for civilians and officers.

POLICE CHIEF Kevin Davis said “at least a third” of the examined uses of force involved the pointing of a firearm by a police officer.

“That’s loud and clear to us,” Davis told the Board. “Why is that happening and what can we do to reduce that number?”

Eyebrows raised when Smith said analysis was conducted again “after some preliminary discussions with senior leadership of the police department.”

In that reanalysis, pointing a weapon at a person was reclassified from use-of-force level three (on a scale of 1-4) to a use-of-force level one, the same level as soft-hand control.

“What’s important to understand is that the disparity in force versus African Americans in particular is largely located in the pointing of a weapon at someone,” said

Black People

path forward.

FAIRFAX COUNTY BOARD OF SUPERVISORS, PUBLIC SAFETY COMMITTEE MEETING



Springfield Supervisor Pat Herry



Public Safety Chairman Rodney Lusk (Lee Supervisor)



Deputy County Executive David Rohrer with Fairfax County Police Chief Kevin Davis

Smith. The new “softer” analysis largely obscured the disparities.

“The firearms our officers carry are loaded, yes? We’re basically talking about pointing a loaded firearm at somebody,” said Alcorn. “Soft-hand control does not involve the potential of deadly force. I frankly would discount the analysis of putting that in L-1 [the least severe use of force category],” he said.

Herry, on the other hand, said he’s been

on ride-alongs with narcotics units where pointing a weapon “changes the equation quickly.”

“They use the pointing of weapons to actually deescalate a situation,” said Herry, the Board’s lone Republican.

Braddock Supervisor James Walkinshaw countered: “I don’t think the Police Executive Research Forum would view pointing a firearm as a deescalation technique. Necessary, effective maybe in some instances, but

not deescalation,” he said.

“I do have a frustration with that slide in that it’s not reflected in the report. I searched for reestimation and you kind of didn’t show your work on that slide,” he said. “I think the public would benefit more from hearing how you came to the conclusions that were on that slide.”

THE PUBLIC will have that opportunity, said Lusk.

SEE THE PRESENTATION DECK:
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/boardofsupervisors/sites/boardofsupervisors/files/assets/meeting-materials/2021/june29-public-safety-police-department-use-of-force-presentation.pdf>

SEE THE FULL STUDY
<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/boardofsupervisors/sites/boardofsupervisors/files/assets/meeting-materials/2021/june29-public-safety-use-of-force-research-project-report-utsa.pdf>

“We will hold a public input meeting which will include the researchers ... as well as others in the community which includes advocates to have the same opportunity that we’ve had here today,” said Lusk.

In addition, Lusk said that he, along with Chairman Jeff McKay and Davis, would form a community group made up of advocates, community members, police staff and others who will review the study in detail and report back to the public safety committee with feedback on findings and recommendations, including a timeline for implementation.

All of the recommendations made by this study will be added to the Public Safety Committee’s Community Input Matrix.

This extensive list of police reform ideas and suggestions was compiled from input from public safety professionals, community members and advocacy organizations.

<https://www.fairfaxcounty.gov/topics/sites/topics/files/assets/documents/police-reform/police-reform-suggestions.pdf>



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lost (adj): 1. unable to find the way. 2. not appreciated or understood. 3. no longer owned or known



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NEWS

Best Real Estate Market Ever

First half 2021 compared to the same time 2020 and 2011 in McLean and Great Falls.

BY KAREN BRISCOE

The residential real estate market in McLean and Great Falls is to date experiencing the best year ever! The number of sales for the first half of the year are up 38 percent over 2020 transaction levels. The market experienced a slowdown due to the pandemic stay-at-home orders from mid-March to mid-June 2020. In 2021 it has now surpassed the previous peak record of 705 transactions in the first half of 2004 with 741 transactions in the first half of this year. Note that a decade ago when the market was in recovery mode there were only 430 sales in the same period.

The last peak cycle for the area was in the early 2000s with these first half numbers: 563 sales in 2001, 622 in 2002, 654 in 2003, peak of 705 in 2004 and then back down to 678 in 2005. The trends returned to a more "normal" level in 2006 of 448 and 470 in 2007. The financial and real estate markets corrected significantly in 2008 and 2009 with a bottom number of real estate sales of 283 and 294 respectively and the road to recovery began in 2010 with 348.

The good news is that these numbers indicate that home prices are appreciating. The lower bracket in the McLean and Great Falls communities comprises values less than \$1.25 m and the upper market are those greater than \$1.25 m. In the first half of 2021, 49 percent of the sales were over \$1.25 m and 51 percent under. Compare that to one year ago in 2020 where 38 percent of the sales were over \$1.25 m and 62 percent under. One decade ago, in 2011 the upper brackets represented one-quarter of the sales and the below \$1.25 m represented 75 percent of the market. This is really good news for home sellers given that in many segments of McLean and Great Falls prices have been flat for the last 15 years. As interest rates continue to be at historical lows, buyers still have incredible purchasing power.

This is not my first rodeo! As one of the Realtors® who was active in the business during the last market run up, many inquire as to whether this rising market is sustainable. There are several strong market forces that are unique to this cycle. One, the Millennial generation is the largest ever representing over 91 million in the US. The global pandemic has led many Millennials to embrace "adulthood" which means among other things household formation which in many cases leads to home purchasing. Most of the housing built in McLean and Great Falls was for the last largest generation, the Baby boomers which represents around 74 m. So even if no other factors presented themselves, there was going to be a housing shortage.

The majority of residential new home construction in McLean and Great Falls is in-fill where an older

McLean & Great Falls Quarterly Market Analysis of Home Sales (Based on List Price):

| 2021 Sales Compared to 2020 and 2011 | | | | | | |
|---------------------------------------|-----------|------------|---|----------------|----------------|------------|
| 2021 First Half Total Sales: 741 | | | | | | |
| Zip Code | >\$3 Mil | \$2-3 Mil | \$1.25-2 Mil | \$1-\$1.25 Mil | \$750k-\$1 Mil | <\$750k |
| 22101 | 17 | 52 | 98 | 64 | 66 | 21 |
| 22102 | 15 | 20 | 48 | 21 | 17 | 135 |
| 22066 | 6 | 32 | 72 | 32 | 22 | 3 |
| Total: | 38 | 104 | 218 | 117 | 105 | 159 |
| Combined Total Upper Brackets: | | | 360 | | | |
| | | | Combined Total Lower Brackets: 381 | | | |
| 2020 First Half Total Sales: 538 | | | | | | |
| Zip Code | >\$3 Mil | \$2-3 Mil | \$1.25-2 Mil | \$1-\$1.25 Mil | \$750k-\$1 Mil | <\$750k |
| 22101 | 14 | 19 | 77 | 32 | 71 | 5 |
| 22102 | 4 | 8 | 30 | 18 | 16 | 105 |
| 22066 | 2 | 6 | 46 | 33 | 44 | 8 |
| Total: | 20 | 33 | 153 | 83 | 131 | 118 |
| Combined Total Upper Brackets: | | | 206 | | | |
| | | | Combined Total Lower Brackets: 332 | | | |
| 2011 First Half Total Sales: 430 | | | | | | |
| Zip Code | >\$3 Mil | \$2-3 Mil | \$1.25-2 Mil | \$1-\$1.25 Mil | \$750k-\$1 Mil | <\$750k |
| 22101 | 1 | 7 | 35 | 20 | 61 | 69 |
| 22102 | 6 | 4 | 17 | 13 | 22 | 80 |
| 22066 | 3 | 2 | 28 | 18 | 21 | 23 |
| Total: | 10 | 13 | 80 | 51 | 104 | 172 |
| Combined Total Upper Brackets: | | | 103 | | | |
| | | | Combined Total Lower Brackets: 327 | | | |



Karen Briscoe and Lizzy Conroy

home is torn down for a new home to be built in its place. Although there are pockets of land that a developer subdivides and installs streets and utilities and builds new homes, that supply is nowhere enough to meet demand. This is evident throughout the United States where the overall construction numbers for the decades since the 1970s averaged 26.2 m, except for the most recent decade of 2010-2020 which was right under 6 m. The new home construction slowdown was primarily due to the difficulty of obtaining credit after the Great Recession and increased construction costs. In addition to land prices rising, builders and developers have experienced significantly higher prices for lumber, appliances, etc.

There is still considerable demand for buyers ready, willing, and able to purchase a home in Northern Virginia in the balance of 2021. Current supply for



Drag Queen Storytime at Dolley Madison Library in McLean co-hosted by McLean Community Center.

PHOTOS BY MERCIA HOBSON/
THE CONNECTION

‘Celebrating Rainbow Families and Inclusion’

Drag Queen Storytime at Dolley Madison Library.

BY MERCIA HOBSON
THE CONNECTION

Fairfax County Public Library co-hosted with McLean Community Center “Drag Queen Storytime” held in two sessions at Dolley Madison Library on Saturday morning, June 26 at 10:30 and 11:30 a.m. The 40-minute events featured three presenters, who introduced themselves by the chosen drag queen names, using only the first one.

Before the 11:30 story hour began, the presenters provided remarks in an interview about the event. “My effort is to let everyone know that there’s a place for them, even if they feel left out or feel different,” Persephone said.

Majic said that working with children regularly, they know how excited the children can get when they see different things, colorful things, and feel happy. Kaamani said she had no hesitation to be part of Drag Queen Storytime, “We are here. We are queer. I’m here for the future kids. They need to know they belong in whatever lines they belong to.”

Branch Manager Mary Prisbrey kicked off the second session, thanking the McLean Community Center for helping them host the event.

Presenter Magic read the book “Just Add Glitter” by Angela Di Terlizzi. It is the story of a little girl that sprinkles glitter everywhere. “Has the rainy day got you down? Not feeling fancy in your gown? Just add glitter,” Majic said.

Before Persephone read her book “Neither” by Airlie Anderson, she said, “I am a nonbinary woman...I’m a normal woman that gets to define what that means to me.” Persephone said that the book she was about to read was “very special.” “It reminds me of my childhood, some of the difficult times that I’ve had, finding my place in the world.”



Persephone reads “Neither” by Airlie Anderson.



Majic reads “Just Add Glitter” by Angela DiTerlizzi.

“Once upon a time, there were two kinds: this and that, these and those, one or the other. Until Honk. What kind are you? I’m both. You can’t be both. You must be neither,” Persephone read.

Kaamani read the children’s picture book, “The Boy & the Bindi” by Vivek Shraya. It is about a young boy fascinated by “the dot” his mother wears on her forehead. “What is this dot I want to know... It’s not a dot, says my Ammi. It’s not a spot. It’s a bindi,” Kaamani reads. His Ammi gives him one, and as he wears it, he watches people’s reactions.

Drag Queen Storytime is not new to the Fairfax County Public Library. On Oct. 2, 2020, FCPL posted on Facebook, “We’ve received questions about a proposed Drag Queen Storytime. As with all FCPL programming, we encourage parents & caregivers to attend the events they wish. This storytime is an established program aligned with the American Library Association’s key action areas of diversity and equitable access. To learn about a similar program, check out this news story: <https://www.pbs.org/.../drag-queen-story-hour-offers-a-...>”

Fairfax County Public Library tweeted, “As #PRIDE2021 wraps up, join us virtually Monday evening for our Rainbow Families Storytime. Designed for ages 2-7 with an adult, these inclusive, affirming stories and songs celebrate rainbow families, self-expression, and Pride Month.

Here’s What’s Happening at MCC!

Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park



Sun Dogs: A Tribute to Rush
Sunday, July 11, 5 p.m.
McLean Central Part Gazebo
Free admission

MCC Governing Board



MCC Governing Board
Strategic Planning Session
Thursday, July 15, 6 - 8:30 p.m.
All board meetings are open to the public.

Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park



The Sensational Soul Cruisers:
A Tribute to Motown
Sunday, July 18, 5 p.m.
McLean Central Part Gazebo
Free admission

Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park



Nashville Girls Night Out
Sunday, July 25, 5 p.m.
McLean Central Part Gazebo
Free admission

MCC Governing Board



Regular Monthly Meeting
Wednesday, July 28, 6:30 p.m.
All board meetings are open to the public.



The McLean Community Center
www.mcleancenter.org
Home of The Alden Theatre
www.aldentheatre.org

1234 Ingleside Ave. McLean, VA 22101

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NEWS

Hot Market

FROM PAGE 8

the overall McLean and Great Falls market is under 3 months which is considered a sellers' market as a balanced market is a 6-month supply. As homeowners recognize appreciation not experienced in over 15 years and want to take advantage of a sellers' market, predictions are that more homes will come available.

What about buyers? Yes, Virginia this is still a good time to invest in home ownership. Should 2021 prove to be the first or second year of a rising market, there could still be more price appreciation to come. The real estate market experienced a strong start in the first half of 2021 and indicators show that the second half will close out a banner year.

Karen Briscoe, Lizzy Conroy, and Jenny McClintock with HBC Group at Keller Williams are active and experienced Realtors® in the Northern Virginia marketplace. They work with sellers, buyers, investors, and builders in all price ranges and are available to assist with your real estate needs. www.HBCGroupKW.com, 703-734-0192, Homes@HBCGroupKW.com.

VOLUNTEERS NEEDED

Assistance League of Northern Virginia is an all-volunteer non-profit organization that feeds, clothes and provides reading assistance and books to children in need. Assistance League's programs touch the lives of hundreds of children in Fairfax and Prince William Counties and the City of Alexandria. There are many volunteer opportunities for community members to contribute to helping those in need. To learn more, email info@alnv.org, or visit www.alnv.org.

Volunteer Adult Mentors Needed. Help assist the Department of Family Services' BeFriend-A-Child mentoring program. The mentors provide opportunities for companionship, guidance and support to children who have been abused and neglected, or who are at risk of abuse and neglect. Contact Ibrahim Khalil at Ibrahim.khalil@fairfaxcounty.gov or 703-324-4547.

Operation Paws for Homes, a Virginia based 501(c)(3) organization seeks volunteers, especially to foster dogs. See www.ophrescue.org for information and all volunteer opportunities.

Master Gardener Training. The Fairfax County Master Gardener Association offers plant clinics, home turf training or speakers for homeowner's meetings. Fees vary. Visit fairfaxgardening.org or call MG Help Desk at 703-324-8556 for more.

CALENDAR

NOW THRU JULY 29

Pathway Homes Art Exhibit. 9 a.m. to 5 p.m. (Monday through Saturday). At Vienna Arts Society, 513 Maple Ave., West, Vienna. Pathway Homes, Inc. is hosting its 10th Annual Summer of the Arts Exhibit—both in studio and online, where Pathway Homes' residents who have mental health challenges showcase and sell their own art, poetry, and crafts. Pathway Homes is a nonprofit providing mental health services—starting with safe, stable housing—to individuals marginalized by poverty and inequity. Art and creativity are an integral part of recovery for Pathway Homes' residents. Visit www.sota.pathwayhomes.org

FRIDAY/JULY 9

Friday Night Live. At Herndon Town Green, Herndon. Popular free outdoor concert series returns to regular performances. This will be the 27th season for the concert series which is produced by the Herndon Chamber of Commerce.

Schedule

July 9 -- Turtle Recall;
July 16 -- The Rocketts;
July 23 -- Herr Metal + Dr FU;
July 30 -- Kristen and the Noise;
Aug 6 -- Social Call;
Aug 13 -- It's All Good;
Aug 20 -- JunkFood;
Aug 27 -- All-Star Band;
Sept 3 -- Shake the Room;
Sept 10 -- Keeton + 8 Track Jones;
Sept 17 -- The Reflex;
Sept 24 -- Screaming Mönkeys.

Friday Night Live! is produced by the Herndon Chamber of Commerce and brought to you by its title sponsor Volkswagen Group of America.

SUNDAY/JULY 11

Summer Sunday Concerts in the Park. 5 p.m. At McLean Central Park Gazebo
1468 Dolley Madison Blvd., McLean.
Sunday, July 11 -- Sun Dogs: A Tribute to Rush.
Sunday, July 18 -- The Sensational Soul Cruisers: A Tribute to Motown.
Sunday, July 25 -- Nashville Girls Night Out.

WOLF TRAP SCHEDULE

Visit www.wolftrap.org for tickets. By phone at 877.WOLFTRAP
July 7 -- Watchhouse (formerly Mandolin Orange)
July 8 + 9 -- Beethoven and Bologne with National Symphony Orchestra, Jonathan Heyward (conductor), Francesco DeGo (violin)
July 10 -- Aria Jukebox, The Audience Gets to Choose! (streaming online beginning July 10)
July 10 + 11 -- Max Weinberg's Jukebox

TUESDAY/JULY 13

"Duck Harbor" Web Series. 8 p.m. Episode Seven. Sponsored by 1st Stage in Tysons Corner. Duck Harbor is a web series about a long-distance love in later life. The piece is brought to audiences through a creative series of short scenes in which the actors, just like the characters, are meeting for the first time. Audiences will get to experience the magic of the theater and the excitement of new love between these two lonely hearts reaching out from charming small towns on opposite sides of the country. Every week, each of the two actors, who live on opposite coasts, will be given only their half of the script and will experience the other side of the story with a sincere and genuine freshness, "on stage," in front of our audience. Performances will take place every Tuesday, now through August 17. Get your tickets today at www.1ststage.org.

TUESDAY/JULY 13

Behind the Scenes of Lady Bird Johnson's 1967 Reston Visit. 6-8 p.m. Via Zoom. A special all-virtual program commemorating Lady Bird Johnson's 1967 visit to Reston with special guest author Julia Sweig. To register visit: <https://www.restonmuseum.org/event-details/reston-and-lady-bird-johnson>.

THURSDAY/JULY 15

Get ready for great entertainment with the 2021
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Summer Entertainment Series! Back in person this summer, the free performances and movies are possible thanks to a strong partnership between government, volunteers, business sponsors, individual donors and the Fairfax County Park Foundation. With more than 130 live performances to choose from, the 2021 Summer Entertainment Series will offer something for everyone. Here are some of the most popular performances on the way.

If you love R&B classics, come out at 5:30 to 7 p.m. on Thursday, July 15, 2021, for the tribute music of Smokey Robinson, featuring lead vocalist SIXX. His ability to mimic the soulful voice of Smokey is superb. Enjoy the free performance as part of the Evenings on the Ellipse Concert Series, held at the Fairfax County Government Center located at 12000 Government Center Parkway, Fairfax.

Come out to the Music at Arrowbrook Centre Concert Series for free family entertainment. On Saturday, July 17, 2021, from 7:30 until 9 p.m., experience Irish rock with Scythian. Washington D.C.-based Scythian began over 12 years ago as a bunch of college buddies playing Celtic music in the streets and has grown to be a headliner on the U.S. Celtic festival circuit, as well as a name in the Bluegrass/Americana festival circuit. They have played over 1,300 shows all over the U.S., Europe, Canada and as far away as Australia. Arrowbrook Centre Park is located at 2351 Field Point Road in Herndon.
Call the hotline at 703-324-SHOW (7469) one hour before the start of the show for updates.

SATURDAY/JULY 17

Vienna Multicultural Festival. 2-7:30 p.m. At Historic Church Street, Vienna.
The 2021 Vienna Multicultural Festival will close out the Commonwealth of Virginia's inaugural Liberty Amendment Month with a day-long bevy of performers, interactive activities, crafts, food, and vendors that celebrate the diverse cultures and communities represented across Northern Virginia. For a performer schedule, go to viennava.gov/liberty and click on 'Vienna Multicultural Festival'

SUNDAY/JULY 18

Inside the KGB. 2-3:30 p.m. Zoom event. Sponsored by The Cold War Museum, 1734 Farm Station Road, Warrenton. You Want Your Brightest People Guarding Your Secrets. But What If Those Secrets Show That Your System Is Corrupt? Your Brightest People Are Going to See That Best And Hate It the Most. Cost is \$20. Visit the website: <https://www.eventbrite.com/e/tower-of-secrets-inside-the-kgb-and-how-we-escaped-to-the-west-tickets-146651144521>

FREE SUMMER CONCERTS IN RESTON

Reston Community Center is pleased to announce that free summer concerts will return to venues around Reston beginning in June. Lunchtime with the Arts at Mason – Thursdays in June, Reston Town Square Park. 12:30-1:30 p.m.
Take a Break – Thursdays, 7 p.m. – 9 p.m., Lake Anne Plaza
Summerbration Fab Fridays – 7 – 9 p.m., Reston Station
Family Fun Entertainment Series – Saturdays, 10 a.m. – 10:45 a.m., Reston Town Square Park
Sunday Art in the Park with the Shenandoah Conservatory – Sundays, 7 p.m. – 8 p.m., Reston Town Square Park

GOLF CAMPS

Laurel Hill Golf Club and Twin Lakes Golf Course are offering weeklong summer camps taught by professionals from The Eisman Golf Academy. Junior golfers ages 8-14 will learn and improve on golf fundamentals in a fun environment. Class sizes are limited for personalized instruction and camp includes on-course play. Also included are swag bags, games and prizes. Camps take place at Twin Lakes on July 19-23, and Aug. 9-13, 2021. All camps run from 9 a.m. to 1 p.m. To register, visit the Junior Golf Fairfax website. Laurel Hill Golf Club is located at 8701 Laurel Hill Crest Drive in Lorton. Twin Lakes Golf Course is located at 6201 Union Mill Road in Clifton.

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I'm the Big Winner



By KENNETH B. LOURIE

(Not a cancer column.) For the past six months or so, I have been the email-recipient of \$50 gift cards to numerous to count/tally. They have run the gamut from Ace Hardware to Zappos.com and everything in between like CVS, Kohls, Walmart; you name it. I have rarely clicked on any of these "give-aways" because the one time I did, the answers required on the site - to claim my winnings, seemed a bit intrusive, as in what they were asking was none of their business. If they truly want to incentivize me to spend money at their store/site, they need to leave my personal business out of their equation. You don't need to know my mother's maiden name or the name of the city where I was born, to give me money, and you definitely are not getting my credit card number into which you'll make "the transfer." I've been down that rabbit hole before, and it's not good.

For a time, I was naively open and curious about these presumptive money/data grabs. I figured that in a pandemic world where millions of potential buyers are quarantining at home, and brick and mortar businesses are left fending for themselves, finding an alternate route to my wallet/credit cards while many of us were less inclined to go out and mix with the masses, a gift card teaser seemed prudent and reasonable. Moreover, given the very extenuating circumstances we've all endured these last 18 months, it was safe even; given our collective evolution in terms of purchasing goods and services online over the last decade to buy remotely. Throw in the same day service available with some vendors and there really is very little need to leave your house.

But after being nearly hooked and gutted by a phishing expedition once before, I've become extremely cautious about taking any bait/ tipping my toe in the figurative computer water, especially when the offers seem to be pulling at my heart's strings: free/easy money. Certainly I am mindful of the advisory: "If it sounds too good to be true, ..." yelled from the highest mountain tops in the past decade. However, the fraudulent pursuit of our almighty dollars are not being sent by idiots/ innocent target marketers. Hardly. These callers, with whom you eventually have to make verbal or online contact are quite proficient at answering your questions and/or allaying any fears that the about-to-be-extremely-unlucky mark is exhibiting. And once the caller/responder to your query has control of your computer - which you provided (it seemed like the logical thing to do to close/finalize the deal), the gift card party is officially over. The "free" money you had anticipated receiving is now going to cost you real money, as opposed to the offer you initially received which, as it happens, wasn't real/free at all.

Still, even with my previous near-death financial wipeout, I did click on a CVS offer. The site had all the CVS bells and whistles and colors which I've come to recognize and the offer seemed genuine: three choices to click on a box to win a \$50 gift card. And of course, it was the third and final red box on which I clicked that offered up my \$50. That was easy. Too easy.

As it soon became apparent, claiming the money was the problem. Once I answered a bunch of questions about my name, rank and serial number of where I live and so forth, I realized I was leading the caller down the garden path to my identity and all sorts of harrowing misadventures which I'd prefer not to experience first hand. Before it got too late/too personal on the sight, I politely backed out before any damage was done. As a result of this near calamity, I am no longer clicking on anything that seems the least bit enticing with unsolicited offers of direct payments/gift cards to me. If however, there are solicitations to me for gift cards to be mailed to my home without any preconditions or questions answered, I'd be happy to receive them. Otherwise, I won't bother. I've been shamed once, I can't afford, literally, to be shamed twice, then it is my fault (a fool and his money ...).

Kenny Lourie is an Advertising Representative for The Potomac Almanac & The Connection Newspapers.



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1012 Steeples Ct, Falls Church City

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 townhome in the heart of Falls Church City! This fantastic, light/bright home features updated kitchen and baths; sparkling hardwood floors; sunken living room with fireplace and sliding glass door walkout to patio and landscaped yard; main level den/office; formal dining room and main level laundry. Upstairs features the lovely owner's suite with walk-in closet and luxury bath; nicely-sized additional BRS (one with walk-in closet); **large 2-car garage!** Gorgeous landscaping!



Offered for...\$1,549,999

1506 Hardwood Lane, McLean

***FABULOUS and LUXURIOUS* 5BR/4.5 BA**
 home on 3 finished levels in sought-after Chesterbrook Woods location! Updated kitchen with sunny breakfast nook with bay window; kitchen opens to the inviting family room with stone hearth fireplace; sun room with vaulted ceiling and Palladian windows; office with built-ins; primary BR features tray ceiling, walk-ins and luxury bath; walk-out LL includes expansive rec room, wet bar and walkout to the sprawling backyard; 2-car garage; Chesterbrook, Longfellow, McLean schools!



Offered for...\$2,599,000

6904 Lupine Lane, McLean

***MAGNIFICENT* and *EXPANSIVE* 6BR/6 full and 2 half bath colonial home located on over an acre** in sought-after McLean/Parkview Hills location - moments to Scott's Run nature preserve and the Potomac River! This beautiful property features approximately 9500 finished square feet on 3 levels, plus a 3-car garage. The inviting 2-story, marble floor foyer with curved staircase greets you upon entry; newly refinished hardwood floors on the main and upper levels; gourmet island kitchen; walkout LL!

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 McLean, 22101
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 Falls Church, 22046
 \$1,297,000



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6604 Jerry Place
 McLean, VA 22101
 \$899,000



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 Vienna, 22180
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